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cans, as the author depicts it, can scarcely be summed up so well as in the words of Hermann Ridder, which he quotes:

It goes without saying that the Germans love their Fatherland, but they love the land of their adoption, and their first and last allegiance is to the country in which they have settled and raised families, and where forever every interest they and their children have is centered.

The Ore Deposits of South Africa. With a Chapter on Hints to Prospectors. By J. P. Johnson. Part I—Base Metals. iii and 61 pp., and 10 figures. The Norman W. Henley Publishing Co., New York. \$2.

This little volume has a double aim: to present a "co-ordinated and condensed account of the ore-deposits at present known in South Africa," and to serve "as a guide to the prospector." Chapter I presents in the space of eight pages a brief consideration of the genesis of ore deposits in general, a scheme for the classification of ore deposits, and a very generalized classification of rocks for use by the field worker. Then follow eleven short chapters, describing briefly the occurrence of ores of the base metals, many of the cases cited being but prospects. Deposits of the precious metals are reserved for Part II. The chapter on hints to prospectors consists of a few pages devoted largely to a description of some thirty minerals. Two pages of this chapter are given to diagrams illustrating the effect of faults and dykes in the auriferous deposits of the Witwatersrand, but neither faults nor auriferous deposits are treated in the volume, and dykes are but briefly referred to. In general it may be said much of the subject matter of the book is too condensed to be of great value, while the treatment of certain parts may more properly be called superficial. The concise descriptions of many mining properties and prospects will prove of value to those interested in the development of South African ore deposits. D. W. J.

Mexican Trails. A Record of Three Years in Mexico, 1904-1907, and a Glimpse of the Life of the Mexican Indian. By Stanton Davis Kirkham. xvii and 280 pp., 24 Illustrations from Photographs and Index. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1909. \$1.75.

The author writes from first-hand and intimate knowledge of the uncommercialized regions of Mexico and with feeling, sympathy and appreciation. For a book that does not pretend to give detailed geographic descriptions and which particularly portrays the "color," as seen in life and scenery, the impressions given the reader are singularly definite and concrete. Rarely does one read a popular book on a country dealing with life in its setting and acquire therefrom more than pleasing, fleeting impressions that cheer for a moment and then are gone as to their influence, as is a mediocre joke or anecdote. Therefore a book like the one under review deserves more than passing recognition. Here is an author who sees his facts clearly, who, in one or two chapters, gives some excellent geographic descriptions, and who, as a whole, holds your attention to your profit as well as your pleasure. He has an excellent knowledge of plants and animals, is more than versed in legend and archæological story and the phases of the country described are varied and pertinent. His description of the sequence of activities of a day from dawn to night makes you feel the moods of the passing hours as if they were a personal experience, and the accounts of many bits of scenery and accompanying sky effects bring before one images that can almost be visualized, so skilful is the narrative. The monotony of existence among the lowlier classes, the religious fiestas, the ruins of Metla, the life at a resort or in a mining town, are equally effective and satisfactory as bits of description.

Attention has been given rather to the pleasing side of Mexico than to the squalid and unmoral. Hence the story, though advisedly incomplete, is perhaps more welcome, for it brings before us the best side of the people. Considering that the other side is so frequently emphasized unduly, it is a satisfaction to find an author who can see beauty amid unpleasant surroundings and who interprets motives as well as actions. A "globe trotter" could not write such a book, even if he tried. "Mexican Trails" is a book for the general reader, but it contains much for the geographer who is interested in the more subtle features of environment and life, even if they can not be strictly ordered according to scientific theory.

R. E. D.

Grammatik und Vokabularium der Bongu-Sprache (Astrolabebai, Kaiser-Wilhelmsland). Von A. Hanke, Rheinischer Missionar in Deutsch-Neuguinea. Mit einer Karte, einer wortvergleichenden Tabelle von neun Orten des Astrolabegebietes und einem Vokabularium der Sungumanas-Sprache. xii and 252 pp. Georg Reimer, Berlin, 1909.

Grammatik der Neu-Mecklenburgischen Sprache, speziell der Pala-Sprache. Von P. Gerhard Peekel, Missionar v. hist. Herzen Jesu. xiv and 216 pp., and Map. Georg Reimer, Berlin, 1909.

These are volumes 8 and 9 of the classic works, which, under the enthusiastic supervision of Dr. Eduard Sachau, are published by the Seminar für orientalische Sprachen under the collective title of "Archiv für das Studium deutscher Kolonial-sprachen." Such works as these (already including from this oceanic tract, Fritz on the Chamorro, Erdland on the Marshall Islands and Constantini on New Britain), sufficiently confute Pastor Hanke's complaint that German science has, in the present colonial era, left the oceanic languages wholly unnoticed. Regretfully he notes the activity of the English in this field. Yet his own work, now offered to students, is entirely outside competition by any English work upon any of the languages, loosely, and we believe incorrectly, classed as Malayo-polynesian. The English missionaries more or less successfully have produced grammars and vocabularies merely as tools of their trade, vehicles for the instruction of younger mission workers sent out to relieve their elders. These two German missionaries have succeeded in producing classic works; they have laid foundations upon which future philological study can build with confidence in a group of human speech which, unless our own investigations are wholly wide of the mark, may be expected to yield most valuable contributions to the evolution of language and to shed a brighter light upon the acquisition of speech itself.

Though the two languages dealt with in these volumes are near neighbours on the charts, they are scarcely associative in a single particular. This is easy of comprehension to those who are familiar with the impassable distances which separate cannibal neighbours even when in immediate proximity. The Bongu is of the family provisionally named Papuan, the Pala of the Melanesian. In the case of each provisional class we are not yet in a position to determine whether they have a real family existence or are to serve as a temporary confession of our ignorance. That they are radically distinct, however, is made clear by these two works.

The purpose of the two books is differentiated by the titles. Pastor Hanke, with grammar, dictionary and most interesting record of the Papuan storyteller's art, has completed such a manual of the Bongu language as must be the envy of all who are working in this little known field. Father Peekel, on the other hand,